

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS VANNESS
BENTLEY
SOKOL
GIRARD
THOMAS
CONOVER

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR McDEVITT

OTHERS PRESENT:

BUD YORK, SHERIFF
SHANE ROSS, CHIEF DEPUTY
BRIAN LAFLURE, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
AMY MANNEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
FREDERICK MONROE, CHAIRMAN
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS KENNY
LOEB
McCOY
PITKIN
STEC
STRAINER
CHAMPAGNE
TAYLOR
MERLINO
GOODSPEED
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
JOANNE COLLINS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. VanNess called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Sokol carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Brian LaFlure, Director of the Office of Emergency Services (OES), who distributed copies of the agenda, a copy of which is on file with the minutes. He noted that the presentation from the National Weather Service had been postponed and the Committee would be notified of a reschedule date.

Regarding the Emergency Services Training Center, Mr. LaFlure informed that three applications had been submitted for Federal appropriations for the 2011 fiscal year with funding to be used for the next phase of the Training Center. He noted that a concerted effort had been made to increase viability of the applications.

Pertaining to the Walmart project in Queensbury, Mr. LaFlure stated that he had met with the developer, Supervisor Stec, and Len Fosbrook, President of the Economic Development Corporation, who all agreed that consideration to join forces in order to

eliminate or reduce the cost for the connector road between Quaker and County Line Roads was advisable. Mr. LaFlure stated that the grant funds were being retained for use specific to the Training Center. He noted that Wal-Mart had indicated that the road would be brought to the property line; however, he stated, the plans were preliminary and under discussion. He advised that infrastructure expenses would be best utilized directly toward the facility. With regard to the County's purchase of a neighboring property, Mr. LaFlure stated that he expected the purchase to result in fewer easement and wetland issues, and he would continue to work with Don DeGraw, Airport Manager, and other County leaders.

Addressing New Business, Mr. LaFlure requested authorization for a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Saratoga and Washington Counties for the Companion Animal Sheltering Equipment (CASE) Grant. He noted that Saratoga County was the lead agency for the grant.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request for an MOA as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 19, 2010 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Relative to appointment of the Hazard Mitigation Officer position, Mr. LaFlure stated that the item would remain pending. Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, said that she had obtained additional information and suggested a meeting be scheduled for the purpose of sharing the information.

Mr. Geraghty asked if Federal funds would be available without the appointment of a Hazard Mitigation Coordinator, especially in the event of a disaster. Mr. LaFlure stated that records indicated that Warren County was not listed as not having a Coordinator; however, he stated, the Hazard Mitigation Program required more time and attention than it was currently receiving with only a draft Plan in progress at this time. Amy Manney, Deputy Director of OES, stated that the appointment of a Hazard Mitigation Coordinator was required by New York State to serve as the responsible party and contact person for such matters. Without this appointment, she asserted, significant amounts of grant funds would be unavailable. Mr. Geraghty recounted that the issue had been under discussion for over a year, and it behooved the Committee to approve appointment of an Acting or Temporary Hazard Mitigation Coordinator until a formal appointment could be made. Mrs. Manney noted that the process for developing and implementing the Hazard Mitigation Plan could require up to three years.

Mr. VanNess stated that the appointment process was the responsibility of the Committee and not the OES staff. He asserted that Mr. LaFlure and Mrs. Manney worked in a rigorous manner on a daily basis to carry out the responsibilities of the Department. Mr. LaFlure noted that he was currently acting as Hazard Mitigation Coordinator which included the signing of necessary documents. Mr. VanNess apprised that the completion of a job description for the Hazard Mitigation Coordinator position was underway and he pointed out that one requirement was a significant engineering background.

A discussion ensued and Mr. Bentley reiterated that money would not be available until the Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved. Noting the need for both a Hazard Mitigation Plan and a Coordinator, Chairman Monroe asked if anything could be done to expedite the process. Mrs. Manney stated that the process included several steps with the draft Plan currently under review by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), who was allowed three months to complete the review. Mrs. Manney noted that Warren County was the last in the State to begin the process as there was insufficient staff to commence the process, for which she stated her Department assumed full responsibility. Mr. LaFlure stated that if there were no major issues with the draft Plan, the process could be completed within 12 months.

A discussion ensued and Mr. LaFlure explained that funding could not be obtained until the final plan was approved, unless Warren County experienced a disaster for which a declaration existed in the State. If Warren County drafted a declaration, Mr. LaFlure stated that funding would be likely if the cost of damages was significant.

Mr. LaFlure stated that formal approval was required in order to serve as the Temporary Hazard Mitigation Coordinator. He said that he agreed to serve in this manner and noted the significance of the team that had been assembled previously and their varied expertise, who would work under the Coordinator. He added that his responsibility also included signing of documents and vigilance of deadlines.

Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, stated that the position typically came under Emergency Services purview, but those Counties also had much larger Departmental staffing.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the request to appoint Brian LaFlure as Temporary Hazard Mitigation Coordinator effective March 19, 2010, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 19, 2010 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

This concluded the EMS portion of the Public Safety Committee meeting and privilege of the floor was extended to Sheriff York and Shane Ross, Chief Deputy, who distributed copies of the agenda; a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Sheriff York presented a request for a new contract with Wells Communications Service, Inc., for the maintenance of the 911 system consoles, for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012, for a total amount not to exceed \$10,800.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the request for a contract as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 19, 2010 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York presented a request to renew the contract with NEC Unified Solutions, Inc., to provide maintenance on the NEC telephone system, for the period April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011, for a total amount not to exceed \$13,980.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the request to renew the contract as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 19, 2010 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

The third request presented by Sheriff York was for a contract with Rich Morin's Professional Scuba Centers to provide annual maintenance and emergency repair on scuba equipment, to commence on February 1, 2010, for a total amount not to exceed \$2,000 per year.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the contract with Rich Morin's Professional Scuba Centers as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 19, 2010 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to declare executive session pursuant to 105 (f) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was declared from 10:00 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.

Committee reconvened and Mr. VanNess noted that no action was necessary pursuant to the executive session.

With regard to Personnel, Sheriff York requested approval to change the funding status of Patrol Officer #19, base salary of \$32,670, due to retirement, and to unfund the Patrol Sergeant #5 position.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request to change the funding status of two positions as outlined above, thereby amending the table of organization, and to refer same to the Personnel Committee. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York referred the Committee to the Annual Statistical Report for 2009 as prepared by Chief Deputy Ross, which was distributed with the agenda, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

With regard to the Boat Patrol issue on Lake George, Sheriff York confirmed with Mr. Geraghty that there would be a Sheriff's boat presence on the Lake; however, he stated, there would not be a Boat Patrol/Marine Unit in force. Sheriff York stated that he anticipated public interest on the matter and acknowledged new Board members from Lake George and Bolton. Mr. VanNess asserted the need for the Boat Patrol and he noted the 25%/75% split for fiscal responsibility for the County and State, respectively. He further stated that in light of the revenue generated by the local tourism industry, an active Boat Patrol was highly recommended. Sheriff York stated that it was cost prohibitive to enforce the Boat Patrol without Committee support. He stated that he would strongly consider placing Patrol boats on the water in case of

emergency.

Mr. Bentley conveyed his concern for both Brant Lake and Schroon Lake. Sheriff York apprised that the Word of Life Institute in Schroon Lake had donated dock space and the Town of Schroon Lake paid \$4,000 per year for same. He further stated that Brant Lake, Loon Lake, parts of the Hudson River, and Glen Lake were all included in the Boat Patrol issue and the County needed to consider the needs and desires of the local public. At a minimum, he stated, the Patrol boats could be parked at the dock. Furthermore, Sheriff York noted that State reimbursement for the Boat Patrol Officers would cease, as the reimbursement was not available for Officers operating road vehicles.

On behalf of the residents of the Town of Horicon, Mr. Bentley asserted that the Towns of both Horicon and Bolton paid a significant percentage of County taxes; therefore, he stated, the expectation was the presence of an active Boat Patrol on the lakes.

Mr. VanNess stated that the Sheriff Boat Patrol issue would be tabled for further discussion. Sheriff York informed that the Governor's Budget had proposed a reduction in funding from 75% to 50% which had not yet been finalized.

A discussion ensued and Mr. Champagne declared the need for continuous cost containment efforts. Mr. McCoy affirmed the need for Boat Patrol on Lake George, especially on the weekends when the lake was highly populated.

As there was no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mr. Sokol and seconded by Mr. Girard, Mr. VanNess adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist